

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Bison: An American Icon Opens **April 6th at Fort Caspar Museum**

Casper, Wyoming – Fort Caspar Museums is hosting a traveling exhibit, *The Bison: An American Icon*, from April 6 to May 25, 2010. Fort Caspar Museum is the first museum in the country to host this exhibit.

Few animals conjure the power and symbolic presence of the North American bison. Whether painted on a tipi or an artist's canvas, minted on a nickel, or seen grazing in Yellowstone National Park, the image of the bison stirs in us deep loyalties to the North American landscape. Wild and fundamental, the bison is a familiar part of our shared heritage.



The Bison: An American Icon explores the meaning and significance of this iconic creature from the Plains Indian culture of the 1800s through the commercial and national symbol of the present. Along the way, *The Bison* charts the dramatic changes that occurred to the creature and its habitat, and to the people who depended on it for their daily existence.

Special activities and programs will be held throughout April and May. Additional information will be announced soon.



The Bison: An American Icon has been made possible by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit was originally developed by the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana, and co-curated by Anne Morand and Dr. Lynne Spriggs. This exhibit is toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance through NEH on the Road. NEH on the Road offers an exciting opportunity for communities of all sizes to experience some of the best exhibitions funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Mid-America Arts Alliance was founded in 1972 and is the oldest regional nonprofit arts organization in the United States. For information about these organizations visit www.maaa.org or www.nehontheroad.org. First Interstate Bank is the local sponsor.

For more information about this exhibit and its programs, call Fort Caspar Museum at 307-235-8462 or check our website at www.fortcasparwyoming.com.

In April, the museum is open Tuesday ó Saturday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Admission fees are: Children 12 & Under FREE, Youth 13-18 are \$1.00 and Adults 19 & Over are \$1.50.

Starting in May, the museum is open daily from 8:00 am ó 5:00 pm. The fort buildings open May 1st and the admission fees are: Children 12 & Under are FREE, Youth 13-18 are \$1.50 and Adults 19 & Over are \$3.00. Fort Caspar Museum is located at 4001 Fort Caspar Road, Casper, WY 82604.

Photo Credits:

Beaded child's dress (Blood-Blackfoot), c. 1900, collection C.M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, Montana. Photo: E.G. Schempf.

Darrell Norman, **Parfleche**, c. 2009 historic reproduction, Photo: E.G. Schempf.



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